

REMARKSSummary of the Office Action

Claims 84-183 are pending in this application.

Claims 84-90, 93-115, 118-140, 143-165, and 168-183 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Goode et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,684,400 ("Goode"). Claims 91, 92, 116, 117, 141, 142, 166, and 167 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Goode in view of Hendricks et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,798,785 ("Hendricks").

Applicants' Reply

The present invention, as defined by independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159, relates to a method, systems, and a machine-readable medium for allowing a user of an interactive media guide to access media provided by a plurality of media sources. One or more media group options are provided, where the media group options indicate media available to the user without indicating the content of the media, without indicating the title of the media, and without indicating the source of the media. A plurality of media indicators are provided in response to the user selecting a media group option, where the media indicators are associated with the selected media group option, and where the plurality of media indicators identify media provided by at least one of the plurality of media sources. Additionally, the plurality of media indicators includes a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, where unscheduled media includes media that is not provided at a scheduled time and is available for viewing at a time

selected by the user. An action associated with a media indicator is performed in response to the user selecting a media indicator from the plurality of media indicators. The references cited by the Examiner, whether taken singly or in combination, neither show nor suggest the claimed invention.

Goode discloses providing subscription-on-demand ("SOD") services for an interactive information distribution system. See Goode, Abstract. FIG. 4 of Goode shows a pie-shaped menu 400 that permits selection of various services using any one of the "pie" sections 402, 404, 406, or 408. See Goode, col. 8, lines 48-52. The Examiner contends that Goode shows all the features of applicants' independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159. See Office Action, pages 2, 3, and 5-7. In particular, the Examiner contends that Goode shows providing a plurality of media indicators in response to the user selecting a media group option, where the plurality of media indicators includes a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, citing Goode, col. 8, line 57 to col. 9, line 65 for support. See Office Action, page 3. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Goode does not discuss the services that are accessed by selecting sections 402, 404, and 406 of pie-shaped menu 400 of FIG. 4. Instead, Goode focuses almost exclusively on the SOD services that can be provided in connection with section 408. As specified by Goode at col. 3, lines 62-67, "the term 'SOD service' is defined as the capability of a consumer to subscribe to packages of programming at a pre-defined price and those programs within a subscribed package." Goode proceeds to illustrate, in FIG. 5, an

exemplary display 500 that can be shown in response to selecting the SOD service of section 408. See Goode, col. 9, lines 4-27. Consistent with the definition of "SOD service" cited above, list 502 of FIG. 5 appears to present only categories of on-demand programming in response to a user selection of section 408. Nowhere does Goode show or suggest providing a media indicator for scheduled media in response to selecting section 408 of menu 400.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Goode neither shows nor suggests providing a plurality of media indicators in response to the user selecting a media group option, where the plurality of media indicators includes a first media indicator for scheduled media and a second media indicator for unscheduled media, as defined by applicants' independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159.

Hendricks, which was applied by the Examiner for the alleged teaching of specific elements of certain dependent claims, does not make up the deficiencies of Goode in failing to show or suggest the claimed invention.

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 84, 109, 134, and 159 are patentable. Accordingly, each of dependent claims 85-108, 110-133, 135-158, and 160-183 is also patentable at least because it depends, directly or indirectly, from a patentable independent base claim. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 84-183 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Comments: Per our telephone conversation of earlier today, I enclose a copy of the Reply to Office Action that was filed on July 23, 2007 in connection with U.S. Patent Application No. 09/829,806 (our docket no. UV-196 US). With best regards.

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